Efforts are being made to increase the refining capacity by taking up expansion of existing refineries and by setting up of new grassroot refineries in the Public Sector, joint venture and private sector in order to reduce expenditure on imports of products. Besides promoting conservation of petroleum products in various fields, a number of oil and gas field development projects are being implemented to enhance production of crude oil and natural gas. Government have also offered certain oil/gas fields for development to private companies.

Import of Tyres under OGL

7634. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration to allow import of passenger Car tyres, jeep etc. under Open General Licence;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have received any representation from Tyre Industry against the proposal for import of tyres; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and what is the reaction of Government in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Automative Tyres Manufacturers' Association has opposed the shifting of such tyres from Negative List of Imports to free list. Tyres of passenger automobile vehicles including two wheelers, three wheelers and personal type vehicles have been included in the list of—Restricted items of the Negative List of Imports.

Turnover of Modi Group of Companies

7635. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total turnover of M/s. Modi Group of companies, Modi Nagar in business with foreign countries during 1993-94 and 1994-95 alongwith the names of countries and amount;

(b) whether any country has expressed its dissatisfaction over any of such deals and complained to Government; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c). According to information available, the Modi Group of companies is not one group. Different companies are managed by different branches of the family. Government does not maintain information about the turn over of private companies with one or more foreign countries. No specific complaint regarding any deal has been received in the Ministry of Commerce.

Hoarding of sugar by Cawnpore Sugar Works Limited

7636. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:
SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Cawnpore Sugar Works Limited has been manufacturing quality sugar and has been withholding stock worth about 25 crores to gain price rise;

(b) whether the company has properties worth about 4000 crores while it has its liability about 4600 crores;

(c) whether the company is being handed over to some private industrial house for a sum of Rs. 35 crores;

(d) whether company's four units in production are being closed down in order to facilitate transfer of management; and

(e) if so, the facts and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.